

CD 2007--59



Tuesday, October 9, 2007
12:10 pm, Walter Hall

Voice Performance Class
presents

Music and Poetry
The Casual Life Outside of Heart:
Songs by W. H. Auden and Benjamin Britten

Virginia Hatfield, soprano
Karim Sulayman, tenor
Cameron Stowe, piano
Eric Domville, speaker

Lecture
Let the florid music praise
Night covers up the rigid land
Seascape
To lie flat on the back
Fish in the unruffled lakes
Nocturne
As it is, plenty
Underneath the abject willow

Biographies

Soprano **VIRGINIA HATFIELD** earned a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music and received the Distinguished Graduate Award from the Opera Division, where her roles included Miss Wordsworth in *Albert Herring* and the title role in *Alcina*. As a member of the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio from 2005-2007, Virginia sang Frasquita in *Carmen*, Laura in *Luisa Miller*, and Fifth Maid in *Elektra*; covered Marguerite in *Faust*, Despina in *Così fan tutte*, the title role in *Rodelinda*, and Woglinde and the Woodbird in *The Ring Cycle*; sang Pamina in the Ensemble Studio Production of *The Magic Flute*, and Leah in the world premiere of James Rolfe's *Swoon*, also with the Ensemble Studio. In 2006, she performed in the Commissioning Concerts and the Inaugural Gala Concerts for the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. Recent concert appearances include Gabriel in *The Creation* with the Aldeburgh Easter Festival, a Schubert and Mozart recital for the CBC's *Music Around Us*, and concerts in the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre, performing songs by Messiaen, Britten, and Derek Holman. This past June, Virginia was a featured soloist with the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra for *Opera under the Stars*, which was recorded for broadcast on *Bravo!* and will soon be released on DVD. Upcoming performances include the Voix dans le ciel in the COC's new production of Verdi's *Don Carlos* and the Aldeburgh Connection's *Schubertiade*.

KARIM SULAYMAN, tenor, is rapidly garnering the attention of audiences and critics for his fascinating portrayals and sensitive musicality. With a vast repertoire that spans baroque to contemporary music, he has been enjoying a busy calendar in opera and concert performances throughout the world. Recent successes include Acis in *Acis and Galatea* with Houston's Mercury Baroque and Dominic Walsh Dance Company. The Houston Chronicle lauded his performances for their "clean, clear sound and earnest intensity." He performed Tom Snout in Andrei Serban's new production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Chicago Opera Theater, debuted at the Aldeburgh Festival in *The Fairy Queen* under Harry Bicket, made his Berkshire Opera debut as Gonzalve in a new production of Ravel's *L'heure espagnole*, and immediately returned to Aldeburgh for performances of Bach's Cantata 182 with Andreas Scholl at the Snape Proms. Last season included Cantata 110 at the International Bach Festival under Helmuth Rilling, his New York City recital debut at Galerie Icosahedron, and performances of Mercure in Rameau's *Castor et Pollux* under Yves Abel with L'Opéra Français de New York. Immediate future projects include the Haute-contre solos in Charpentier's and Delalande's *Te Deum* settings under Jane Glover with Music of the Baroque in Chicago, and a return to the Mercury Baroque as the tenor soloist in complete performances of Handel's *Messiah*.

American pianist **CAMERON STOWE** holds a doctorate from The Juilliard School, a Master's degree from The Peabody Conservatory and a Bachelor's degree from Oberlin College Conservatory. Mr. Stowe has received much critical praise and numerous awards for his dedication to the study and performance of song and chamber music. Distinguished honors include prizes from the Wigmore Hall International Song Competition and Tanglewood Music Center, a research grant from the Theodore Presser Foundation, and the Richard F. French Doctoral Prize, Juilliard's highest academic honor. Mr. Stowe maintains an active performance schedule as a collaborative artist, having performed recently at The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Ravinia Festival, Stratford Festival, Weill Recital Hall, San Francisco's Herbst Theater, New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Asociación Cultural Humboldt in Caracas, Venezuela. Upcoming engagements include the world premier of a song cycle written for Mr. Stowe and soprano Sari Gruber by renowned composer George Tsontakis. A dedicated educator, Mr. Stowe has presented master classes and educational programs throughout the United States. In 2004, he joined the faculty at University of Toronto to develop a new graduate program in collaborative piano and teach courses in song interpretation and ensemble performance.

ERIC DOMVILLE is a Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Toronto. His main scholarly interest is the life and works of W.B. Yeats. He is also a writer, lecturer and broadcaster on opera. He has taught several courses in song and opera repertoire at the Faculty of Music. Prof. Domville has appeared numerous times as a commentator for the Music and Poetry series.